

Ames Historical Society

AMES • IOWA

Newsletter to Members 2019 SPRING.....ISSUE #2/4

*Discovering our history,
Preserving our past,
Sharing our stories.*



In addition to regular summer open hours, Hoggatt School can be visited by appointment – a fun activity for groups of all kinds!

Ames Historical Society Board:

President	Sharon Wirth
Vice-President	Peter Hallock
Secretary	Lynette Spicer
Treasurer	Ken Cameron

Don Beitz, Bob Bourne, Wayne Clinton, Dan Franklin, Eric Hoiberg, Becky Jordan, Mary Logsdon, Bonnie Norman, Jim Popken, Ryan Riley.

The Board meets the 2nd Thursday of each month 7pm at 416 Douglas. Members welcome!

Staff:

Executive Director	Casie Vance
Research & Exhibits Manager	Alex Fejfar
Collections Manager	Carly Hlubek
Emeritus Staff:	
Alan Spohnheimer, Margaret Vance, Dennis Wendell	

Ames Historical Society is an incorporated, 501c3 not-for-profit organization whose mission is to engage our diverse public and provide unique opportunities to learn about Ames history.

Headquarters: 416 Douglas, Ames, IA 50010
Hours Tue. – Sat. 10 am - 4 pm
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Phone: 515-232-2148
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Website: www.AmesHistory.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/ameshistoricalsociety

The newsletter is published four times a year for AHS members. Direct comments and questions to: Editor, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010 or e-mail above. Editor: Kathy Svec

Hoggatt School is located on the grounds of Meeker School at 18th and Burnett, Ames, IA. Open Sundays, June 9 – Aug. 11; by appointment April to Oct.; closed Nov. to March.

Another Summer of Fun at Hoggatt School!

Open Sundays, June 9 – August 11, 2:00 - 4:00 pm.

Programs begin at 2:15 pm.

All ages welcome!

Hoggatt School was Ames' first school house, built in 1862. It has been restored and is located at 18th and Burnett on the grounds of Meeker School. Parking is available on the street or in the school parking lot.



June 9 - Summer at Hoggatt Kickoff Party

Join us for music, ice cream and a photo booth at Ames' first school – and learn to make butter the pioneer way!

June 16 & August 11- Making Soap the Pioneer Way

Come for a hands-on experience in making soap the old-fashioned way.

June 23 & August 4 - 1860s Schoolyard Games

Try your hands (and feet!) at games that students in one-room schoolhouses played at recess. Some may be recognizable, perhaps others won't.

June 30 - What's in Your Lunch Pail?

Students in 1860s schools ate very different lunches than students do today. Come taste what lunch at Ames's first school might have tasted like!

July 7 - The Great Hoggatt School Spelling Bee

Is spelling one of your strengths? Test your skills in the Great Hoggatt School Spelling Bee!

July 14 - Could You Survive in the 1860s?

Outhouses, kerosene lamps, bonnets, and suspenders... Living conditions in the 1860s were very different than they are today. Could you survive? Come find out!

July 21- Make an 1860s Toy

Children in the 1860s had far fewer toys than we do now and many were hand-made. Come to Hoggatt School to make your own 1860s toy.

July 28 - Are You Smarter Than an 1860s 8th Grader?

In one-room schoolhouse days, 8th graders had to pass an exam to graduate. Would you have "graduated" from Hoggatt School? Come take the test and see how you score!

Thanks to Greater Iowa Credit Union for sponsoring the Summer at Hoggatt Programs.

Exhibits and More Upcoming Events

2019 Lecture Series Continues

Presented in partnership with Ames Public Library, Library Friends Foundation and the Senior Variety Show. All lectures are at Ames Public Library's Farwell Brown Auditorium, 515 Douglas. Free & open to the public. Assisted hearing device available on request.

BONUS LECTURE: Thursday, May 23, 7 pm

History of American Popular Music

By **Michael Lasser**, lecturer, writer, broadcaster, critic, teacher and host of the nationally syndicated public radio show, *Fascinating Rhythm*. Lasser will present American popular music as social history. He will include the works of such song-writers as the Gershwins, Cole Porter and Irving Berlin between 1920 and 1950 and the role songs about the Midwest played in popular music and social attitudes of the time.



Wednesday, June 26, 7 pm

From Fair View to Parkview: the Battle to Save the Morris Farm from Involuntary Annexation

By **Edie Hunter**, ISU History graduate student



As the population of Ames exploded in the post-WWII period, the city struggled to meet the demand for new housing. Capital, labor and supplies were readily available - all the city needed was land on which to build. But when faced with the threat of involuntary annexation, Edward and Neva Morris resisted and the battle was on to save their beloved farm.

Current Hallway Exhibits

Miss Ames Pageant

A dress worn by a Miss Ames pageant contestant is featured, with information about this event.

Artifacts from the Attic: Alexander Plow Company

This early company made garden implements and other similar tools.

Ames Bottlers

This exhibit provides information about two bottling companies in Ames.

Younkers Little Shop

The Ames store on Main Street, known as "Younkers Little Shop," was the first branch store, opening in 1941.

Cemetery Walk Set for June 2



Our intent to hold a Cemetery Walk last fall was met with endlessly rainy weather! So, the date for the re-scheduled event is **Sunday, June 2, 2:00 pm** at the Ames Municipal Cemetery, at 9th and Maxwell. Sunday, June 23 is the rain date – which we hope we won't need!

The Walk will feature readers 'in character' relating the stories of seven notable women from Ames history: Cynthia Duff, Mary Greeley, Rowena Stevens, Winifred Tilden, Ada Hayden, Nancy Martin and Sarah Emery Gossard – all are buried in the Ames Cemetery.

Attendees should gather at the Greeley Mausoleum, directly east of the main gates and bring lawn chairs or blankets – the "walk" will be stationary! A map will be provided for those who would like to explore gravesites. Presented in partnership with Grandon Funeral Home and Story County Genealogical Society.

University Museums Lectures

The Society is partnering with University Museums to make our members aware of their "Living With Art" program series. All are at 7pm in the Ames Public Library auditorium. Free, open to the public.

Tuesday, June 11:

Magical Material:

Glass Sculpture of Dale Chihuly

by Allison Sheridan & Adrienne Gennett

Tuesday, July 9:

Museums Around the World:

From Ames to Australia

by Allison Sheridan and Rae Reilly

Special Lobby Exhibit

In honor of the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day and the end of World War I, a greatly enlarged panorama of the Ames parade for returning soldiers is on view in the History Center's hallway. The photograph is especially interesting in its precise detail.

Exhibits & More Upcoming Events



Photo Archive Exhibit Continues

At the History Center, the current exhibit continues through Saturday, August 3:

Exploring Historic Ames: Unique Selections from the Farwell T. Brown Photographic Archive.

Through 50 carefully selected images in ten themed categories, the show highlights Brown's remarkable historical resource that is available online to anyone interested in early Ames history. The featured photos were chosen based on their ability to view current-day Ames through a historical lens.

*The History Center is at 416 Douglas, downtown Ames.
Open Tuesday – Saturday, 10 am - 4 pm.*

The exhibit's partner is the Ames Public Library, which hosts the full photo collection on its website: amespubliclibrary.org > Learn and Explore > Local History.

The Library's website pages that feature the Brown Archive have been redone. They feature multiple ways to access the collection: by categories or by decade or by alphabetical subject listing. If you experience problems, please let us know so that they can be corrected. The Society stores and has digitized the entire archive and can assist researchers.



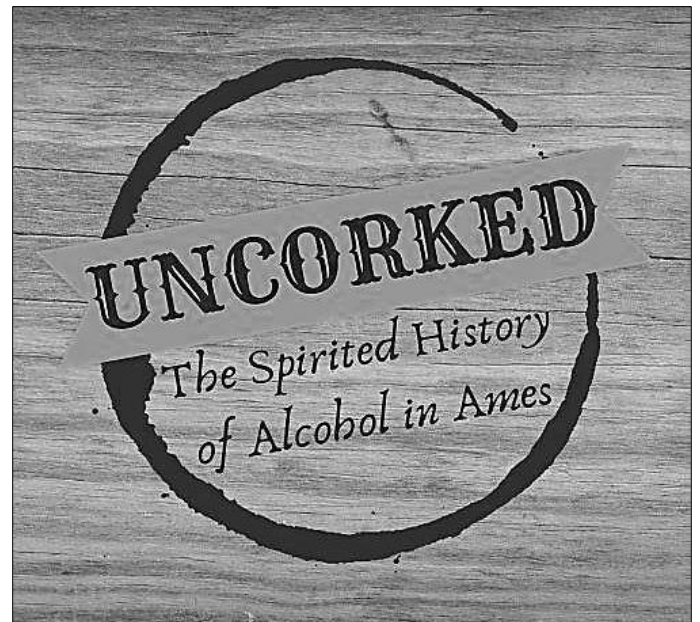
In March, Society vice-president, Peter Hallock, presented his extensive research on early Ames progressives, John and Rowena Stevens. The event was part of the 2019 Lecture Series.

Save the Date!



We invite you to join us for our annual benefit dinner on **Friday, August 23** at Prairie Moon Winery. Social hour begins at 5:30pm. In conjunction with the next exhibit, the theme this year is 'Speakeasy' – so plan to dress in your best 1920s garb! Invitations will be mailed in July.

The following day, **Saturday, August 24**, our next featured exhibit opens at the History Center. It is **'Uncorked: The Spirited History of Alcohol in Ames.'** More information about the exhibit and its street-festival opening event will be mailed to members.



Memorial Day Closure

The History Center will be closed Saturday, May 25 for the Memorial Day weekend.

2018 Annual Report Highlights

Here are highlights from the 2018 Annual Report for those not able to attend the March 26 annual meeting.

- At 2018 year's end, **memberships** stood at 584
- **Volunteers** gave 5,443.5 hours of their time
- Capital **Improvement** Fund (aka Building Fund) stands at \$57,426 – up from \$3,538
- **Endowment** is at \$174,068, up from \$145,743 and returning 5% to operations annually
- **Operating Income** - \$185,102: Memberships \$43,646, Donations/ Fund-raisers/Grants \$63,228, City/County \$44,744, Endowment \$6,906, Earned Income \$26,578
- **Expenses** - \$171,659: Facilities \$16,835, Personnel \$97,548, Administration \$17,815, Projects \$39,461; **Net** +\$13,443 (goes to cash reserves)
- **89 programs** and **open houses** were presented to 4,412 attendees
- 33 project and event community **partners**
- 2,578 **visitors** to the Ames History Center
- 423 **research requests** answered, from preservation advice, to home research, to photo requests
- 1500 objects **catalogued** and entered into our museum collections database
- **Exhibits** created and/or sponsored: Ames Hi Aiming High Through the Years, Fly With Banning, Cathedrals of the Plains, Hometown Teams: How Sports Shaped Ames, Exploring Historic Ames-Unique Selections from the Farwell T. Brown Photographic Archive
- **Continued** work on Iowa Historic Resource Development Grant to complete a collections inventory project by November
- **Updated** the Strategic Plan
- **Participated** in many community events
- And **much more!**

To see the complete illustrated 2018 Society Annual Report, go to www.ameshistory.org > About Us, then scroll all the way to the bottom of the page.



Society staffer, Alex Fejfar, demonstrates stereo-optic to St. Cecelia School 5th graders visiting the History Center.

2018 Annual Appeal

We are so grateful to the 180+ supporters who gave to the 2018 end-of-the-year annual appeal! A total of \$18,162 was donated, which went to both operations and the endowment. These dollars fuel the energy and ideas of our staff and volunteers – and the community directly benefits!



At last year's Annual Benefit, a festive dinner at The Roosevelt was auctioned. It was hosted on April 25 by Jane and Patrick Hansen, Sharon and Don Wirth and Devon Lewis, and enjoyed by Darryl and Joyce Vegge, Lee Huey, John and Carolyn Klaus and Pat Carlson. The former elementary school, now condominiums, is a unique and interesting place to visit.



Welcome New Board

New to the Society's Board of Directors are:

- **Becky Jordan** who completed a term ending March 2019 and will serve a new 3-year term.
- **Eric Hoiberg** and **Jim Popken** were appointed to the Board in December and will finish out terms that end March 2020.
- **Wayne Clinton** joined the board in March 2019 and will finish a term that ends March 2020.

We are very pleased to have the expertise and community knowledge that each of these individuals brings to the leadership group. The complete Board and their terms are:

2017-2020: Bob Bourne, Wayne Clinton, Eric Hoiberg, Bonnie Norman, Jim Popken

2018-2021: Don Beitz, Lynette Spicer, Dan Franklin, Sharon Wirth

2019-2022: Ken Cameron, Peter Hallock, Becky Jordan, Mary Logsdon, Ryan Riley

Special thanks to those completing terms for their dedicated service to the Board: **Keith Bystrom, Sarah Kassen** and **Clarke Pasley**.

Volunteer Opportunities

Potential History Center volunteers are interviewed to match their interests and skills with projects underway. Here are several of our current needs:

Scanning

An important goal for the Society is the digital preservation of much of our collection. We are looking for volunteers to scan photos and other resources. Computer experience needed, but training will be provided on the specific programs.

Artifact Inventory

Assistance is needed to inventory all of our historical artifact collections. Volunteers assist the Collections Manager in paperwork, photo taking and organizing. No prior experience is needed - volunteers will be trained on proper museum handling and procedures.

Tribune Research

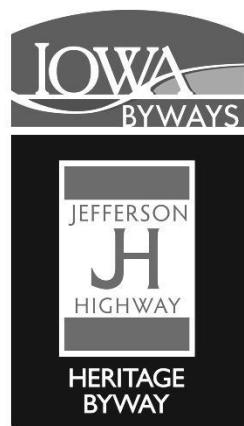
Volunteers are needed to research photos and businesses using digital newspapers. Computer experience is needed but training will be provided on the specific programs used.

Volunteers typically work Tuesday through Saturday between 10 am and 4 pm, though other times may be arranged. Contact the Society if you are interested or need more information: 515-232-2148 or email us at info@ameshistory.org.

Jefferson H'way Heritage Byway

In March, Ames City Council endorsed the designation of the Jefferson Highway Heritage Byway. The ~1916 highway was the first major hard-surfaced north-south highway in the U.S. It stretched from Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada to New Orleans and was known as the 'Pine-to-Palm' Highway. In Ames, the highway entered the eastern corporate limits on Lincoln Way, then turned south on Duff Avenue (U.S. Hwy 69). As a State Heritage Byway, signs will be provided and installed by the Iowa DOT along the route. This is similar to the Lincoln Highway designation, already in place.

The Jefferson Highway was an important international transportation link for the nation and community of Ames in the early 20th century. Its designation as a heritage byway will help inform local residents about its history and may draw visitors who are interested in traveling on the historic route.



The April 13 workshop on Book Restoration was taught by Eduardo Garcia of Ames (2nd left). Eduardo is a trained bookbinder and is expert at repairing books of all kinds. His patient instruction helped attendees successfully restore the broken books they had brought.



Third graders from Fellows School visited Hoggatt School on May 7 – one of ten 3rd grade groups that visited this spring. Alex Fejfar told tales of early education in one-room schools and quizzed students about what they knew.



A 5th grade group from St. Cecelia's came down to the History Center to experience the current exhibit.

This spring, 13 elementary school groups were hosted by History Center staff. A program of activities for

these visits has been developed with assistance from classroom teachers.

Local Stories – Grand Avenue Underpass

The Grand Avenue Underpass

Trains Increase Hazards

Up until 1938, all rail crossings in Ames were at grade, in other words, the street and the tracks were at the same level.

With increased activity from through-trains and switching operations, getting across the tracks became a big problem and there were fatal accidents at the downtown grade-crossings.



Grand Avenue at 5th Street, looking south; before 1938.

Viaduct & Crossing Proposals

In 1916 and 1927, proposals for viaducts at Carroll Avenue and at Brookridge were rejected by the railroad.

At Carroll, the track's elevation was lower and there was space for a viaduct. But in 1916 during World War I, railroad operations were taken over and controlled by the federal government. Approval from Washington DC was required and construction materials were in short supply. Needless to say, the project was not a high priority for the government in 1916.

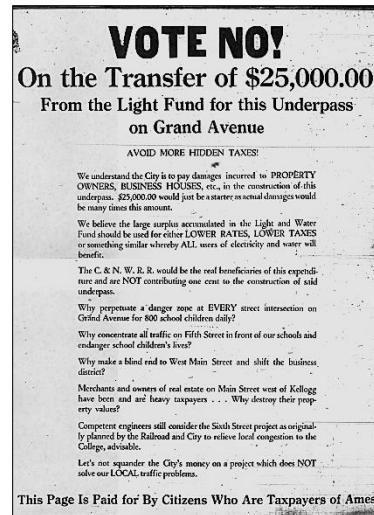
The 1927 the Brookridge proposal was rejected for its cost and because it did not improve existing dangerous crossings.

In 1928, the school board requested a grade crossing at Clark so high school students could safely get to the field house south of Lincoln Way. At that time, there was no crossing at Clark as there is today. This proposal was opposed by the railroad because long trains stopping at the Depot stretched across Clark and would have blocked traffic.

Underpass At Last

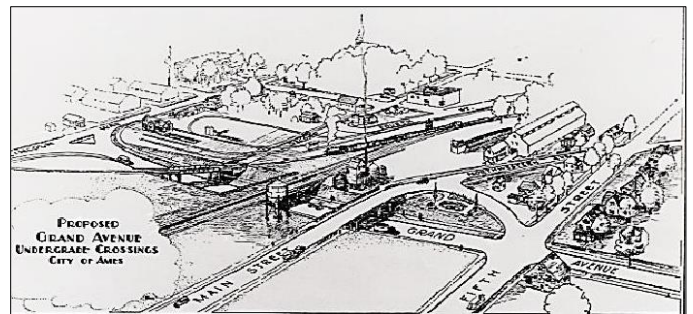
By the mid-1930s, city and state highway engineers were seriously talking about an underpass at the Grand Avenue rail crossing. Total cost estimate was \$354,000. In 1936, workable plans were developed and after hot debate and some vocal opposition, Ames voters

narrowly approved transferring \$25,000 from the municipal electric fund for the city's share of the project.



Since Grand Avenue and Lincoln Way were primary highways (69 and 30), the project was handled by the Iowa Highway Commission with the balance of the cost covered by state funds and a \$100,000 grant from the Federal Railroad Crossing Elimination program. (The Iowa Highway Commission later became the Iowa

Department of Transportation.)



Ben Cole & Sons were selected as the contractors, providing important Depression-era jobs. A plaque commemorating Cole can be seen just west of 5th and Grand. An engineering marvel for the times, the Grand Avenue underpass was completed in 1938 with no interruption to trains.



Underpass construction.



Temporary train trestle on the C&NW branch line.

1944 Flood

The “Worst Flood in Ames History” on May 20, 1944 stopped trains from coming in or going out of Ames. The depot’s underground subway that connected to the south platform was filled with water and the Grand Avenue underpass was damaged.

Later Safety Improvements

In 1948, Sixth Street was extended to campus and a 61-foot drainage span west of Squaw Creek was converted for use as a roadway under the railroad tracks (still in use near Brookside Park). In 1960, passenger service ended and eleven years later in 1971, a grade crossing opened at Clark Avenue. With trains no longer stopping to drop off and take on passengers, the way was cleared for this upgrade.



The “wye” that crossed Lincoln Way just east of Grand caused many traffic back-ups and delays and in 1986, it was finally abandoned. As a result, in years following, plans were made to remove the southern-most of the three bridges that crossed Grand Avenue (arrow). And, years later, the underpass was deepened and drainage improved – though the underpass continues to be prone

to flooding during heavy rainfall events. New signage (left) with flashing lights has been installed to warn drivers when it is unsafe to proceed.

Though there have been proposals for an underpass at Duff Avenue, the project seems unlikely, making the Grand Avenue underpass an even more critical pathway for motorists.



The 1988 train derailment caused by rail ‘sun kinks’ was a dramatic event in the underpass. Miraculously, no one was injured. A film of this event is on display now at the History Center.

More Society News

Mark Your Calendars!

Sat., June 1: The Society will be present with a Historical Trivia activity at Summerfest in Campustown.

Sat., June 8: The Annual Ice Cream Social, noon to 3 pm at the History Center kicks off **June 10 - 16: Iowa Museum Week**.

Thu., June 27, 4 - 6 pm: Members After Hours at Hoggatt School. 1860s theme with watermelon, crumb cake and other old-timely touches.

News Briefs

- A **new page** on the Society’s website is a **guide to digital resources** that can be used for research. Go to ameshistory.org > Archives & Collections > Research Tips & Sources. More and more material has been digitized and placed online – such as plat maps, newspapers and directories. This means easy access for curious people near and far!
- The Society is also posting on **Instagram** – search [ameshistoricalsociety](https://www.instagram.com/ameshistoricalsociety).
- And - the staff has just begun placing videos of our lectures and other local history films on **YouTube**. Uploading them is a lengthy process, but more and more will be available as time goes on. Search ‘Ames Historical Society’ to see what is already there!
- When shopping on Amazon, remember to log in to Amazon’s charitable giving program, Amazon Smile, (smile.amazon.com) to return a portion of your purchases to the Society! Log in to your account, select Ames Historical Society from the drop-down menu, then shop as usual.
- Take a look at both the “**Lost Ames**” and “**Lost Iowa**” Facebook pages.

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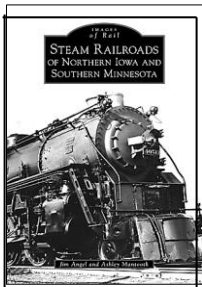
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Museum Shop

MEMBER BENEFIT:

15% off all shop items, all the time!



NEW BOOK

Steam Railroads of Northern Iowa and Southern Minnesota - features several railways, including the Chicago & Northwestern

DINKEY ORNAMENT

Porcelain - white/black/burgundy, \$10

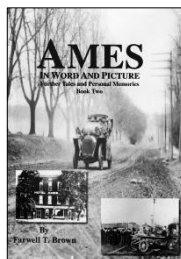
GAMES, BOOKS, COFFEE, MUGS, TEES

Many unique Ames-related items may be selected in our Shop, including Burgie's Onondaga Blend coffee.

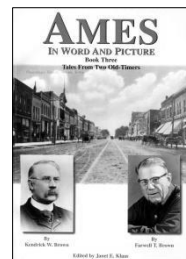
Stuff for both kids and adults – stop in and take a look!

Open hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 10 am to 4 pm

Museum Shop Special!



In conjunction with the Farwell Brown Archive exhibit, two of Brown's local history books will be offered at a special price through August 3. **Select books #2 and #3, two for just \$18!**



Regularly \$20 each. Titles are, *Ames in Word and Picture: Further Tales and Personal Memories* and *Ames in Word and Picture: Tales from Two Old Timers*.

Is it time to renew your membership?

Renewals are due on the one-year anniversary of last year's payment. Check this newsletter's label (above your name) for the date yours is due. Memberships fund the day-to-day operations of the Society, so we can continue to be a valued community resource. Now – pay online at our updated website!

Introductory - 1st year	\$15	Partner	\$250
Basic	\$30	Benefactor	\$500
Friend	\$50	Patron	\$1,000
Sustaining	\$100		

Name _____

Address _____

Ames Historical Society, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010